30 YEARS OF STRONG FERTILITY IVF

Thank you to Henry Thiede, MD and his dedicated staff for starting and supporting this life-changing program.
U of R Launches Medical Center
‘In Vitro’ Fertilization Program

Bishop’s Statement
Page 1

The University of Rochester Medical Center announced last week that it was launching a program of human “in vitro” (in glass) fertilization.

The program, according to a medical center release, is designed for “couples who wish to have their own natural child but have been unsuccessful and cannot be helped by other means.”

The program, called CARE (Childbearing by Alternative Reproduction), has been under study for the past year according to Dr. Henry A. Thiede, professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the medical center.

A brochure advertising the program detailed a five-step procedure which will be followed:

1. Counseling and education. Minimum of two office visits for consultation as an outpatient with CARE team members.

2. Controlled ovulation. Beginning on day 3-5 of the menstrual cycle, a drug, Pergonal, is administered daily by injection until clinical laboratory parameters indicate discontinuation. Tests are performed daily for up to 10 days on blood obtained from the forearm. Near the anticipated time of ovulation, pelvic ultrasound examinations are performed daily for 5-8 days to measure the size of the developing follicle with the ripening egg.

3. Egg Retrieval. (More than one egg may be retrieved. All fertilized eggs will be transferred back into the patient.) The patient is admitted to hospital as a short-term patient. Laparoscopy is performed. The ovary is visualized and the mature egg is harvested by aspiration of the follicle through a fine-gauge needle inserted adjacent to the laparoscope. This procedure is done in the operating room under anesthesia. The egg(s) are placed in a petri dish in a nutrient solution.

4. In-vitro Fertilization. Sperm obtained from the husband 4-6 hours after the laparoscopy is placed with each egg. The fertilized egg(s) are allowed to incubate and develop.

5. Embryo Transfer. Approximately 2 days following the egg capture, all fertilized egg(s) are aspirated from the culture dish into a fine-gauge catheter and deposited into the wife’s womb through the cervical canal. This is performed on an outpatient basis.

Because, worldwide, the success rate for the procedure is only at 10-20 percent, “a major thrust of the effort at the University of Rochester will be to increase the success rate of in vitro fertilization,” a release stated.

Dr. Thiede said that practice and observation will increase the success rate.

The cost of the program will run between $3,500 and $5,800 per cycle, it is estimated.

Only legally married couples will be admitted to the program, and the age of the wife should not exceed 39 at the time of application, the center brochure said. In addition, a number of medical tests must have been done before admittance.

The first child born after documented in vitro fertilization is Louise Brown, who was born in July 1978 in England.
November 22, 1963

Dear Doctor:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our CARE program (Childbearing by Alternative Reproduction).

Because of some delays with equipment arrival we did not begin treating patients until July. The following is a program summary:

- 38 applications received
- 38 accepted (charts are still in the review process)
- 11 treatment cycles performed to date
- 1 intrauterine pregnancy (fetal heart confirmed by ultrasound)

The CARE team has sincerely appreciated your support and cooperation. We are planning a Grand Rounds after the 1st of the year that will provide you with additional information.

We look forward to continue serving your patients in the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or the CARE office at 275-4422. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Theide, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Woman begins in vitro procedure

May take weeks to confirm results of UR's first attempt at this method of fertilization

By Barbara Vancheri
Democrat and Chronicle

A childless Orleans County woman in her late 20s yesterday underwent surgery in the University of Rochester Medical Center's first attempt at the in vitro fertilization procedure. But it may be weeks before it's known if the woman becomes pregnant.

If she does, it would mark an historic first for the in vitro program at the UR, announced in late January and untried locally until yesterday.

At 7:15 a.m. yesterday, the woman — whose name is not being released — underwent an ultrasound procedure to locate the follicles or cells surrounding the mature eggs in her ovary. At 8 a.m., a gynecologist-obstetrician attempted to remove the egg surgically and place them in a plastic petri dish.

Because the miniscule eggs are not easily visible to the eye, it was not immediately known if they were successfully removed, said Laura Richter, assistant to the chairman of the obstetrics and gynecology department. Citing patient confidentiality, the UR would not release results of that procedure.

However, if yesterday's process was successful, an attempt was then made to fertilize the eggs with the husband's sperm. "If the fertilization is successful, we would do an embryo transplant 48 hours from now," said Richter.

The hospital does not plan to announce later this week if fertilization occurred or if an embryo was transplanted in the woman's uterus.

A sense of excitement was evident in the medical center yesterday, said Richter, but it was tempered by a "realistic look that the odds for a successful pregnancy are only 15 to 20 percent," she added. Couples will be given the opportunity for three or four attempts over four months, if the first try fails to result in pregnancy.

A total of 10 couples are expected to undergo the procedure during this month and in August. "We're going to be doing patients on a routine basis," Richter said.

Yesterday's procedure, known as a laparoscopy, was performed by Dr. Eberhard K. Muscheler, an expert in fertility who heads the reproductive endocrinology unit at the UR. It was the last in a series of steps leading to the withdrawal of the eggs.

Women admitted to the program, called

Childbearing by Alternative Reproduction, receive daily injections of the drug Pergonal for six to eight days. On the eighth day, the woman receives an injection of a drug that triggers the release of the egg from the ovary.

When her level of estrogen indicates the egg is about to be released, doctors make a small incision in the abdomen and withdraw the eggs from the ovary with a long needle. That procedure yesterday took 2 1/2 to 3 hours, said Richter.

In a new announcement concerning the program, Richter said the UR learned last week that Rochester Blue Cross & Blue Shield will cover the hospital stay costs of the laparoscopy. A patient undergoing

TURN TO PAGE 68

Woman begins in vitro procedure

FROM PAGE 18

the procedure is admitted in the morning and released later that day.

Richter also said that anyone interested in determining if other costs of the procedure — the ultrasound sound, for example — are covered, should contact subscriber service at Blue Cross and inquire about outpatient riders to his or her coverage. Officials at Blue Cross & Blue Shield could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Each attempt at in vitro fertilization is expected to cost $4,500 to $6,000, depending on the number of tests needed. The UR anticipates performing 30 embryo transfers this year and has a three-year goal of 60 annually.

Since the announcement of the program in late January, the UR has received 500 to 600 calls about the procedure. But only about 10 percent have been accepted into the program. The program is limited to married couples.

Women must be younger than 40 and have either damaged or missing Fallopian tubes or endometriosis, a disease causing infertility, that has not responded to therapy. Also eligible are couples in which the husband has a low sperm count, or couples with unexplained infertility.
First In-Vitro Baby

Principals:
Gina Masceri (27)
Louis G. Masceri, Jr. (29)
Krissandra Masceri
born June 30, 1984
7 lbs. 4 oz.

Attending obstetrician:
Dr. Ko-En Huang of Strong Memorial Hospital

Nurse Clinicians:
Katherine Schwarz
Presenting Krissandra — UR’s 1st in vitro baby

For Clarkson couple, this 7 pound, 4 ounce girl is a dream come true

By Joe Dowd
Democrat and Chronicle

Krissandra Masceri, squinting and blushing pink, was wheeled into her first press conference yesterday at Strong Memorial Hospital, greeting the lights and cameras with a wail. Rochester’s first in vitro baby then settled down in the arms of her mother, whimpered gently, and promptly fell asleep.

Weighing in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces, Krissandra’s birth at 4:11 p.m. Saturday was normal. Mother Gina Masceri, 27, was awake at delivery, and father Louis G. Masceri, 29, was in the delivery room for the big moment, said Dr. Ko-En Huang, the attending obstetrician.

“This is just a miracle,” said Gina Masceri, an assembly worker at Rochester Products division of General Motors Corp. She added quickly that to her, the in vitro process didn’t make Krissandra any more special than other children.

“She’s more special because she’s ours,” she said.

“We’ll raise her like anyone else would raise a baby,” said Louis Masceri, a collision repair worker at Vanderstyne Ferd Inc. “She’s (Gina) a deserving mother and before she got too old she wanted to have a baby. I told her I’m all for it.”

The Mascers, who live in Clarkson, said they have been married for nine years and have been trying all that time to

UR program’s first in vitro baby ‘is a miracle’ for the Mascers of Clarkson

FROM PAGE 1A

have a child. Gina Masceri couldn’t conceive during those years because she has endometriosis, a disease where cells from the uterus are spread throughout the abdominal cavity producing scars that can hinder conception.

They decided after reading about the in vitro process to try it. “It took a long time to believe it,” Gina Masceri said. “You do worry about it. You hope it will work out, but you worry about it.”

While her birth was normal, Krissandra’s conception was unusual.

Krissandra was conceived after doctors surgically removed an egg from Gina Masceri’s ovary, fertilized it with Louis Masceri’s sperm in a plastic laboratory dish, and let the cells grow and divide for about two days.

When doctors determined the egg was fertilized, it was returned to the mother’s womb. Eight months and two weeks later, Krissandra was born. The process is only available to couples who haven’t been able to conceive by other methods.

Doctors say the Masiers, who were successful in their first attempt at in vitro fertilization, were lucky in becoming the first Rochester-area parents of an in vitro baby. During the first year of Strong’s program, 35 couples have entered the program, but only two of the women have become pregnant. Another couple’s child is due toward the end of the year, Huang said.

Huang said of the original 35 couples, 22 had successful unions of egg and sperm in the laboratory and underwent the implants. Only Gina Masceri and the other woman, however, have remained pregnant, he said. Doctors anticipate a 10 to 20 percent success rate in the program, Huang said.

About 65 other couples are on a waiting list to get into the program, Huang said. The process costs between $5,000 and $6,000, and the Mascers said their insurance will pay about half the costs. Huang said the hospital’s program is completely self-supporting.

The first in vitro baby was born in England in 1978, and the first U.S. in vitro baby was born in 1981.

Huang described the six-member in vitro team, who were all present in the delivery room, as “nervous.”

Because this was the program’s first in vitro baby, the doctors hoped it would be a normal baby, and “of course I was excited when I saw a normal baby,” said Huang, 50, who is the hospital’s associate director of reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

All three Mascers went home yesterday. The Mascers said they wouldn’t hesitate to have another in vitro baby, and would recommend the procedure to others.
Any report dealing with the future in health care would seem incomplete without mention of Krissandra Masceri, the first baby in upstate New York to be born through in-vitro fertilization. Krissandra, weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces, was born June 30 at Strong Memorial Hospital. The in-vitro clinic and the entire University of Rochester Medical Center are very proud to have been a part of this happy event, and we wish Krissandra a very special welcome to the world.
In vitro baby
born at UR
Birth ends a long wait
for Genesee County couple

By PATRICIA BRAUS
Times-Union

The parents of Rochester's second in vitro baby introduced their sleeping daughter to the public this morning at the University of Rochester. Ada Lee MacFarlane is three days old.

"It's just wonderful, it's a miracle," said her mother, Marion MacFarlane, a 37-year-old school teacher from Bethany Center, Genesee County. "All babies are miracles. But this is our miracle."

Ada Lee was born four weeks premature at 11:24 p.m. Tuesday night at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She weighed 5 pounds, 6 ounces and was delivered by Caesarean section.

Her parents had tried to conceive for seven years before resorting to the in vitro method.

James MacFarlane, 47, who is an investor in Batavia, said that even after they learned his wife was pregnant eight months ago, it was hard to believe. "I had trouble convincing my wife," he said.

"We hoped for it but never expected it would happen," Marion MacFarlane said. She had been unable to conceive because of problems with her Fallopian tubes. One had been removed surgically and the other was blocked.

Mrs. MacFarlane held her daughter during the press conference this morning. The baby, who has a full head of dark hair, was wrapped in a yellow blanket and dressed in a white sleeper decorated with hearts. Mother and daughter are expected to go home Monday.

Ada Lee's birth follows by five months the birth of the area's first in vitro baby, Krissandra Masceri, born to a Clarkson couple in June.

And a third birth is expected some time this summer.

Robert Loeb, assistant director of public relations for the medical center, said a third woman is pregnant with a child fertilized through the in vitro process at the medical center.

The process through which the babies were conceived is popularly—but inaccurately—called the "test-tube baby" technique.

During the procedure, one or more eggs are extracted from a woman's ovaries and fertilized with her husband's sperm in a laboratory dish. The eggs are reimplanted in her uterus about 48 hours after the fertilization. The term "in vitro" means "in glass."

The UR Medical Center opened the in vitro clinic, called Childbearing by Alternative Reproduction, last year. UR doctors learned the in vitro process at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va., before they opened their clinic.

Only couples who have not been able to conceive by other means are accepted into the program, which is the only in vitro program in upstate New York. About 70 couples from the Rochester area, Buffalo, Syracuse and Albany are in the UR program, said Katherine Schwarz, nurse coordinator of the program.

Eastern Virginia pioneered in vitro fertilization efforts in the United States when it opened its clinic in 1983, two years after the world's first in vitro child was born in England.

Dozens of hospitals now operate their own in vitro clinics, though Loeb said the UR clinic is the only such clinic in this part of the state.

Couples applying to the program must be married and the woman cannot be older than 39. There is about a six-month wait for entrance into the program, Schwarz said. The procedure costs about $5,000.
It's a boy — the first in city for 'in vitro'

2 girls were born previously using fertilization process

Sally Constine holds her new baby, Joshua, flanked by her husband, Dr. Louis Constine, and their daughter, Alysa.

Joshua Sanders Constine was born Monday at 2:56 a.m. in Strong Memorial Hospital to Sally Constine, 20, and Dr. Louis "Sandy" Constine, 37. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and measured 22 inches.

Beaming with pride, the couple, with their 9-year-old daughter, Alysa, introduced Joshua to the community during a press conference yesterday at Strong.

"We are absolutely delighted," said Dr. Constine, a radiology oncologist at Strong who specializes in treating children with cancer. "It was a procedure mixed with a great deal of happiness and joy, but at the same time with a great deal of concern that everything would go well."

Dr. Eberhard Muschler and Dr. Kos En Huang, who performed the fertilization procedure at the University of Rochester Medical Center's in vitro clinic, called Childbearing by Altern-

Joshua Sanders Constine, the first boy born at Strong Memorial Hospital in vitro, sleeps through news conference.
Reproductive Options When Facing Cancer
For Women
Embryo freezing
Egg freezing
Ovarian suppression
Ovarian transposition
Ovulation induction and assisted reproductive technologies
Egg donation
CARE AFTER CANCER BENEFIT

- March 2014
- CARE Childbearing After Recovery
- Wine tasting and Silent Auction to benefit Cancer Survivors
- This event is dedicated to raising awareness of fertility preservation options for patients with cancer and to raise funds to assist cancer patients in fertility preservation.
- Artisan Works  565 Blossom Rd. Rochester, NY 14610
Robotic-assisted surgery is a specialized form of minimally invasive surgery.

State-of-the-art technology

The robot allows the surgeon to reproduce movements and techniques that one would perform during open surgery, allowing him or her to achieve the same favorable results with a minimally invasive approach.

Important with reproductive surgeries that require reconstruction of a woman’s uterus, such as myomectomy, the removal of uterine fibroids.
STRONG FERTILITY CENTER WEBSITE

- [www.fertility.urmc.edu](http://www.fertility.urmc.edu)

- Check out our site for information on our programs, special events, news and medication teachings.

Find us on Facebook